

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3-13, and 15-16 were pending and rejected. In this response, no claim has been canceled. Claims 1, 10, and 13 have been amended. In addition, new claims 17-21 have been added. Thus, claims 1, 3-13, and 15-21 remain pending. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 3-13 and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,875,308 of Egan, et al. (“Egan”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,457,082 of Zhang, et al. (“Zhang”). In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3-13, and 15-21 include limitations that are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references.

Specifically, independent claim 1 recites as follows:

1. A system, comprising:
 - a bus including a power line;
 - a bus bridge device including an internal logic unit; and
 - a power regulator to deliver power to the power line, the power regulator further to assert a fault signal to the bus bridge device if a power fault is detected on the bus, the bus bridge device to disconnect the internal logic unit from the bus in response to an assertion of the fault signal to prevent the internal logic unit from being corrupted with invalid data from the bus.

(Emphasis added)

Independent claim 1 includes a bus bridge device, in response to a fault signal received from a power regulator based on a power detection of a bus, disconnects an internal logic unit of the bus bridge device from the bus to prevent the internal logic unit from being corrupted with invalid data from the bus. It is respectfully submitted that the above limitations are absent from the cited references, individually or in combination.

Although the Examiner acknowledged that Egan fails to disclose the above limitations, the Examiner maintained that Zhang discloses such limitations (see 11/30/2004 Office Action, pages 3-4). Specifically, the Examiner contended that a break event of Zhang reads on the limitation of disconnecting an internal logic unit of a bus bridge device from a bus. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The break event of Zhang is not the same as disconnecting an internal logic unit of a bus bridge device from a bus, particularly, disconnecting an internal logic unit from the bus to prevent the internal logic unit from being corrupted with invalid data from the bus. Rather, the break event of Zhang is a software event transitions the system from/to different power states (see Abstract and Summary, Figs. 2A-2B of Zhang). Thus, Zhang fails to disclose or suggest the limitations set forth above.

In addition, there is no disclosure or suggestion within Egan and Zhang to combine with each other. As discussed above, Egan is related to hardware architecture while Zhang is related to software event implementation. One with ordinary skill in the art would not combine Egan with Zhang, because such a combination lacks motivation and reasonable expectation of success. It would be impermissible hindsight based on Applicant's own disclosure for such a combination. Even if they were combined, such a combination still lacks the limitations set forth above. Therefore, for the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is patentable over Egan in view of Zhang.

Similarly, independent claims 10 and 13 include limitations similar to those recited in claim 1. Thus, for the reasons similar to those discussed above, independent claims 10 and 13 are patentable over Egan and Zhang.

Given that the rest of the claims depend from one of the above independent claims, at least for the reasons similar to those discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that the rest

of the claims are patentable over Egan and Zhang. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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